



Economic Affairs Interim Committee

57th Montana Legislature

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August 20, 2001

TO: SJR 22 Subcommittee members and interested persons
FROM: Gordy Higgins, Legislative Services Division
RE: August 30, SJR 22 Subcommittee meeting

NOTICE: The SJR 22 Subcommittee on Health Care and Health Insurance will meet in Helena on Thursday, August 30, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 102 of the State Capitol.

The purpose of this meeting is to gather information and establish study priorities for the remainder of the interim to complete the assignments specified by SJR 22. The information collected will be incorporated into a draft study plan which will be posted on the Subcommittee's website and presented to the Economic Affairs Interim Committee for their comments, suggestions, and approval on Friday, September 7. Rep. Joe McKenney, Subcommittee Chairman, encourages everyone who wishes to provide information and recommendations to help the Subcommittee establish study priorities and guide research efforts.

In an effort to provide equal opportunity for all interested persons, the agenda provides time for discussion and comments on broad policy areas rather than specific presentations. The exception being a presentation on the State Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid by the Department of Public Health and Human Services and the perspective of the State Auditor on the overall goals and objectives the Auditor's Office would like the Subcommittee to consider.

The remainder of the agenda is divided into issues related to each of the tasks contained in SJR 22. The Subcommittee is seeking comments, suggestions, and recommendations on:

- ? purchasing pools for individual and small group insurance;
- ? provider reimbursement rates and cost shifting of health care costs;
- ? access to affordable prescription drugs;
- ? strategies to decrease the number of uninsured Montanans;
- ? factors causing health insurance rates to increase above the rate of inflation;
- ? the feasibility of recreating the Health Care Advisory Council; and
- ? any other issues the Subcommittee or interested persons deem appropriate and relevant to the problem.

You are encouraged to speak on or to provide written information on any of the topics listed. The success of this first meeting and the remainder of the interim depends, to a great extent, on the level of participation by interested persons. Again, information presented will provide the basis for the approach the Subcommittee develops to reach conclusions and make recommendations to the next Legislature.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Gordy Higgins at 444-3064 or via e-mail at gohiggins@mt.gov.

Encl: Agenda
Subcommittee membership list
SJR 22